FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VII, No. 13 | November 15, 1947 | Price 5 Cents

CIO UNITES FOR FIGHT AGAINST TAFT ACT, LIVING COSTS, UNAMERICANS

(See Page 4)

CIO's ninth annual convention ended in Boston, Mass., October 17 on a note of unity covering basic issues of the right to organize, the fight against inflated living costs and opposition to all un-American attacks on civil rights.

All-out opposition to the Taft-Hartley slave labor act, backed by political action to repeal it and to defeat all who voted for the act in Congress marked the debate on the right to organize.

Sparked by a militant speech from PTA delegate Moranda Smith of Local 22, the convention voted unanimously to condemn the un-American Activities committee of Congress as "the most powerful voice of a reactionary program to deprive our people of cherished civil and political rights and to rob our heritage of its tradition of democracy, fair play and tolerance."

A similarly strong attack was made on big business for its drive against living standards through high prices, the convention unanimously voting for a return to price control and rationing by Congress.

The cost of living resolution urged "that a realistic attack on monopoly in our basic industries must be made to prevent the strangulation of our economy through monopoly prices, curtailed production and distribution, and the creation of scarcity for profiteering purposes."

Sharpest debate of the convention came on the foreign policy resolution, which, though it passed unanimously, revealed differences of interpretation among the delegates.

The resolution called for "relentless opposition by all liberty and peace-loving citizens to the offensive led by evil forces to provoke and foster the insane idea of another world war."

It urged universal disarmament, complete destruction of fascism in Germany and Japan, including destruction of big business cartels that promote war, and a return to "big three" unity of the U. S., Britain and the Soviet Union as urged by President Roosevelt.

Aid to war devastated countries was urged on a basis opposed to any coercion of "free but needy people in the exercise of their rights of independence or self-government."

Finally, the resolution quoted Abraham Lincoln in saying: "The prevention of war and the peace of the world depend on the working people," and called for strengthening of the World Federation of Trade Unions in the struggle for peace.

Failure of workers, farmers, white collar people and small merchants "to organize their full political strength against the reactionary forces of our nation" were blamed in the political action resolution for the reactionary work of the present Congress.

This must be remedied, the delegates said, by political organization "reaching into every ward, precinct, block and home so that the message of political action may reach all of the people," and by a unanimous response to the PAC fund drive.

FTA delegates to the convention were President Donald Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane, Vice-Presidents Lewis Bentzley, Robert Lathan and Armando Ramirez, Director of Organization John Tisa and Executive Board Member Moranda Smith.

While the Chamber of Commerce, the NAM and bankers in Congress like Representative Rich (R., Pa.) demand the end of the 40 hour week and no more overtime pay cannery workers like the girl operating the pear machine above are being laid off by the thousands "because they produced too much."

Congressmen who complain that labor "doesn't put out enough" should have worked in a cannery this season—like this one in Fruitvale, Calif., where the workers produced so much that the No Help Wanted signs blossomed all over the place.

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FROM WASHINGTON

THE BOSSES HAVE A PLAN

By ELIZABETH SASULY

Every day is Christmas for the bosses and they want more. But the committees of Congress junketing about the country to find out what they already knew—that prices are up in the stars and the people can't pay them—got so much heat that the President had to add the question of prices on to the agenda of a special session called to take up Europe.

So prices will be discussed in the special session, but the question is what kind of action will be taken. The bosses' program calls for still higher prices and profits—(for them)—lower taxes—(for them)—no minimum wage law—(for us)—full use of the Taft-Hartley act as soon as they can decide among themselves to stop stuffing profits into their pockets long enough to launch an all out union busting drive. And for extra measure, a drive against the farmers through a penalty tax program on farmers' cooperatives.

There is talk of wage controls. This is an attempt to scare us off from a fight for effective price control at a level of prices people can pay and rationing. The theory is that if Congress starts talking wage controls and price controls, we will be afraid to mention price control, or we will settle for freezing prices where they are now if they don't freeze wages. It may come as news to those unions which have been in wage negotiations that we don't already have wage controls. From the way the bosses have been talking it seems pretty clear that they intepret the Taft-Hartley act as the best wage freezing tool yet devised.

You will find as the special gets under way that this question will be tied up very closely with the Marshall Plan, which is supposed to help Europe. On this point, it's time to get a few simple facts straight. FTA stands firmly for a policy of feeding the hungry in Europe and will support legislation to do so. We go farther and support building up the industries of our allies so that they can produce for themselves.

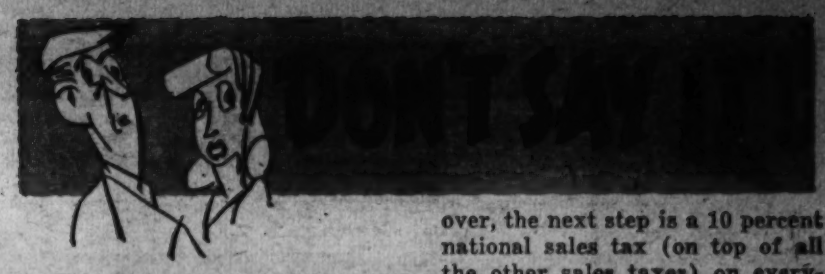
The same men in Congress who voted to bust unions, kill OPA and housing are running U.S. foreign policy, Sen. Pepper (D., Fla.) told the CIO convention—adding "don't trust 'em."

Behind a great deal of the talk about feeding hungry people is the real plan to rebuild German war industry to dominate Europe again as it did before 1945. Don't forget that the "Truman Doctrine" for Greece was sold as a program of food for the hungry, but actually three of every four dollars spent went for military equipment and only one for any kind of relief.

Remember that the real powers behind the throne pushing this program are the same people who put Taft-Hartley across and they don't want a better deal for the working people of Europe than they do for us.

One of the best indications of how far these men will go is given in the hearings on the wage-hour act. This law was originally passed in FDR's time, to give a little protection to the lowest paid workers. One employer representative after another has said in these hearings that he and his organization are opposed to any minimum wage set by law.

Here is one sample: A poor little farmer came in to ask that he get the benefits of the agricultural exemption. He wants an exemption for horse breeders. Who is he? Mr. Ledyard H. Heckscher, Attorney for Erdenheim Farms, George D. Widener, owner, 1035 Land Title Building, Philadelphia, Pa. And Mr. John K. Carrol, representing the American Trainers Association, 1 Wall Street, New York City.



"Work-shy; tramps; hoboes and incompetents . . ." "public and semi-public charges . . ." "homes are generally shacks or shanties rather than houses" . . . that's what Professor Paul H. Nystrom of Columbia University (and also of the retail trade associations) thinks of workers, especially migratory workers, Prof. Nystrom testified this week at Congressional hearings on the wage hour act. Nystrom's position is simple: abolish it.

* * *

More than 200 Congressmen went visiting Europe and Asia this summer and fall—all at the cost of you, the big-hearted American taxpayer. Usually they went uninvited; weren't even allowed into some countries. (Those foreigners are smarter than we are about some things.) Most of them were Republicans—the boys who love to talk about "economy." Remember the 1946 campaign?

* * *

Social notes from all over: a high school speaking contest on the theme "The Voice of Democracy" had to be called off in Washington, D.C., the other day. The reason? Three Negro high school kids had qualified for the final round along with eight white youngsters. The capital's Board of Education found that a public contest with Negro kids would "be contrary to Washington custom and practice."

* * *

Next attack on U.S. living standards is all set for the special session of Congress via the tax route. GOP plans are to insist on big reductions for the rich, small, token cuts for the poor. After that has been put over, the next step is a 10 percent national sales tax (on top of all the other sales taxes) on everything you eat, wear and use. Sponsor of the plan is Rep. Harold Knutson (R., Minn.). Real author is Roswell Magill, Wall St. tax lawyer—that is, expert who tells the rich (for a fee) how to evade taxes.

* * *

Speaking of rich tax evaders, the same "economy" Congressmen who threw away millions on pleasure trips to Europe cut the U.S. Bureau of Internal Revenue funds so it had to lay off 1,400 tax evasion specialists. This means a loss of nearly $5 billions to Uncle Sam. Over 99.44 percent of all tax evasion is by upper-bracket income holders. Who were the Congressmen protecting?

* * *

Thomas Jefferson had some ideas on what to do about the daily press, which lied to and swindled the public in his time just as it does today. Said he in 1807: "Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper. Truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle.

"Perhaps an editor might begin a reformation in some such ways as this: Divide his paper into four chapters, heading the 1st, Truth; 2nd, Probabilities; 3rd, Possibilities; 4th, Lies. The first chapter would be very short."

* * *

Quote of the month: James J. Matles of UE-CIO speaking on the so-called "purity" affidavits required by the Taft-Hartley act: "That's not a chow line you're getting into when you sign those things. What they're dishing out on that line is poison."

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946, of FTA NEWS, published monthly at New York, N. Y. State of New York,

County of New York, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared C. W. Fowler, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of the FTA NEWS and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly or triweekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations) printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher: Food, Tobacco, Agricultural & Allied Workers Union, CIO, 20th & Race Sts., Phila. 3, Pa. Editor: C. W. Fowler, 20th & Race Sts., Phila. 3, Pa. Managing editor: None. Business manager: None.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Food, Tobacco, Agricultural & Allied Workers Union, CIO, 20th & Race Sts., Phila. 3, Pa.; Donald Henderson, President, 20th & Race Sts., Phila. 3, Pa.; Harold J. Lane, Secretary-Treasurer, 20th & Race Sts., Phila. 3, Pa.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is — (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) C. W. FOWLER (Signature of editor).

(Seal)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of September, 1947. DOROTHY S. BLAU. (My commission expires Jan. 7, 1951.)

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

Published monthly by the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America, CIO, at 47 Walker Street, New York 13, N. Y.

Editorial Office: 20th and Race Streets, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Donald Henderson.....General President

Harold J. Lane.....General Secretary-Treasurer

Vice Presidents: Lewis Bentzley, Robert Lathan, Armando Ramirez - Organiz. Dir.: John Tiss

C. W. Fowler.....Editor

Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

"Reentered as second class matter Oct. 7, 1947, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. VII November 15, 1947 No. 13

In the Locals

55 WINS 2nd RAISE

Wage reopening negotiations between Local 55 and the P. Lorillard Co. in Middletown, Ohio, brought the second wage increase this year to the workers. The agreement ratified by the membership on October 9, made the five cent an hour increase retroactive to September 3. Local 55's previous raise was won last March.

Union representatives on the negotiating committee were: Oscar Riley, president; Emerson Murphy, financial secretary; John Sexton, Kelly Sorrell, Lee Carter, Arthur Augsperger and Arlie Atkins.

Webtser Pay Upped 10%

A flat 10 percent across the board wage increase was won by Local 281 at the Webster Cigar plant in Detroit, bringing the minimum for the hand cigar makers to 73c an hour.

Wage-reopening negotiations took place on October 15. Members of the negotiating committee include Martha Drapinski, Sally Detmer, Eleanore Genowa, Irene Wozniak and Clara Lemanski. Regional Director Warren Horie assisted.

45, 57 TURN OUT 2,000

A record crowd of 2,000 FTA members and friends turned out for a special showing of the film "Native Land" on October 11, another milestone in Local 45 and 57's PAC drive.

The two Richmond, Va. locals had to arrange for two showings of the movie to accommodate overflow crowds at the union hall.

Featured speaker Rev. Charles C. Webber, president of the Virginia State CIO, stressed the need for political action, and urged the audience to register and vote.

To date, Local 57 has reached 100% of its PAC goal in the dollar contribution drive, with Local 45 nearing completion of its goal, according to Business Agent Max Sussman.

FTA Kicks Jim Crow

Jimcrow in our nation's capital was delivered a resounding kick in the pants recently by the action of two leading FTA members.

The Washington, D.C. Board of Revocation and Review this week suspended for 15 days the license of a taxi driver who refused to take a white person and a Negro person as passengers. They were FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly and Mrs. Velma Hopkins, Local 22 officer.

The case originated last June when the two women hailed a cab in front of the Senate Office Building. After they entered the cab, the driver told them to get out because it was against the law to take mixed groups.

Sasuly requested the Public Utilities Committee to revoke the driver's license for violation of the District regulation against discrimination by cab drivers.

The Washington Industrial Union Council praised the Board of Revocation and Review for its decision against discriminatory practices.

Union Shop Won By 106

By Arthur A. Ernst, Reporter

A new contract signed before the Taft-Hartley deadline between Local 106 and the Farmers Union Dairy Cooperative in Reading, Pa., provides a union shop, checkoff of dues, paid vacations, six paid holidays and guaranteed minimum weekly wages.

New employes are guaranteed a 65c an hour minimum. The company also agreed to a no discrimination clause, and to provide uniforms, boots and other working equipment.

Newly elected officers of Local 106 are: Henry Troutman, president; Gladys Troutman, secretary; Ernest Wiltrout, vice-president; and Richard Stickler, treasurer.

172 GETS 10c

Wage increases for Pioneer Flour Mill workers, Local 172, San Antonio, Texas, averaged 10c an hour plus five and 10c per hour night shift bonuses in a new contract signed recently.

The increases bring wages to 50% over what Pioneer Flour Mill workers got before they joined the union a year ago, according to Regional Director Harry Koger.

FTA's Quaker Oats Council met last month in Memphis, Tenn., where, among other things, the planned PAC work in the heart of Boss Crump's territory. Standing are Lee Lashley and Jake Triplett, of Memphis with Norman Billings of Akron, O. Seated are Brownie Amborakie, Depew, N.Y., James Walsh, St. Joseph, Mo., Regional Director Armando Valdes; Hugh Moneypenny, Akron; Louis Jedlicka, Cedar Rapids, Ia.; PAC Director Elizabeth Sasuly; Wash O'Bannon, Jr., Memphis and Don Martin, St. Joseph.

FTA BLOCKS FLORIDA PAY CUT; WINS GROWER'S GRIEVANCE SET-UP

An employer attempt to cut wages of Florida citrus grove workers by 20 percent was blocked by FTA action this week, when 300 members of Local 43 staged a three day shutdown in the area around Dade City.

At the same time, the local won an important advance when the employers were forced to agree to the setting-up of grievance machinery—rare among agricultural workers.

Under this agreement, grievances between workers and management will first be handled by a steward working in the grove. If this fails, the beef is taken to local union representatives and put through the regular process of adjustment there.

Workers in the citrus groves were organized by FTA members at the big Pasco citrus cannery in Dade City. The Pasco plant is one of the largest citrus canneries in the U. S. A., and was brought under contract following an FTA victory in an election last year.

Originally the citrus grove workers were under a separate contract, but they are now covered in the same pact that covers the Pasco workers.

Herbert Kling, president of FTA Local 80, Camden, N.J., told the Congressmen some of the facts of life on a cannery worker's wages when the cost of living hearings came to Jersey. The Congressmen's attack on workers for "not producing" fizzled at the hearing when Kling told of Campbell Soup workers threatened with layoff because of biggest pack in history.

FTA FIGHTS HIGH LIVING COSTS IN HEARINGS THROUGHOUT USA

Echoing the protest of workers throughout the U. S. against the sky-high cost of living, FTA members from Seattle, Baltimore and Greensboro, N. C., took the stand to testify before the Congressional Committee, which has been touring the country holding hearings on living costs.

Christine Gardner, a leafhouse worker of Local 22, told the committee when it met in Greensboro, just what it is like to live on $23 a week.

In the same week FTA witnesses Mike Shapiro and Robert Kinney testified in Baltimore, Md., and Seattle, Wash., along similar lines.

Leafhouse workers make about 60c an hour, Sister Gardner said, "but there are tens of thousands in the eastern part of this state who make only 45 to 55c an hour, and work only five to seven months out of the year."

"I'm telling you all this, so that maybe you can see a little bit of what those high prices mean to me and thousands like me who are trying to live on the wages they make. Do you realize that $23 a week won't even pay the grocery bill for my family?

"Before price control was taken off, our wages were lower. But we could still buy more milk than we can now, and we got fresh fruit, eggs, butter and other foods like that, which you need for good health. All I can get now is flour, fatback, potatoes, dried beans, the cheapest kind of vegetables and meat maybe on Sunday and once or twice during the week. We can just get milk enough for one child.

"There's a family near me with three small children. The father is dead, and the mother works at the same place I do. I've seen her buy groceries lots of times. And the only things I've ever seen her buy were beans, rice, fatback, cornmeal, flour and maybe a pound or two of lard. I know what they eat. It's boiled beans for supper, and what's left of them warmed over for breakfast the next day.

"I wish with all my heart that some of the rats in Big Business, yes and in Congress, too, who are responsible for these profiteering prices could be forced to live under these conditions.

"It just seems like somebody is deliberately trying to take every nickel we've got, and drive us into starvation. I'm not blaming the retail stores or the wholesalers. I blame the big food monopoly chains like the A & P, and the others who control the food markets, like the big meat packers and the gamblers who are speculating with the price of food on the grain markets."

Declaring that "voluntary methods are not enough," President Donald Henderson wired Charles Luckman of the Citizens Food Committee this week urging restoration of price controls and rationing to help feed Europe and bring down food prices in this country.

"The 102,000 members of the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union, CIO, heartily support practical steps to feed hungry people of friendly countries devastated by war. Such aid must be given without political bias or attempt to influence governments or peoples to whom it is sent," Henderson said.

"We must point out however that this aid cannot be provided on the purely voluntary methods so far proposed by your committee. No number of meatless Tuesdays or eggless Thursdays will suffice, either to feed the people of Europe or to reduce the mounting inflation of food prices in our own country.

"President Truman has taken the first step in dealing with the food and price crisis in calling the special session of Congress set for November 17. It is now up to Congress to follow through by restoring price control and rationing of essential foods, by ending speculation in food commodities, by prosecuting and jailing price conspirators, and by destroying the power of the food trusts.

"It is our hope that your committee will join with the CIO and with other progressive groups in urging such a program of action. Voluntary methods are not enough."

Comparing tobacco workers' wage increases with increases in prices, FTA Representative Ed McCrea showed that these workers have taken an 8.8 percent cut in real wages, along with a drop in the quality of goods offered and increased rents.

"The whole national wealth is being concentrated, at a continuously accelerating rate, in the hands of the big financial combines that control industrial production in the United States," McCrea charged. "The failure of Congress to halt this process, and its cooperation in laying the public open to plundering, is directly responsible for the present crisis."

Tearing into big business' denials of responsibility for high prices, McCrea showed by the example of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., how industry has doubled and tripled its profits which could well have absorbed any wage increases without raising prices. "The effort to raise wages has been made necessary by skyrocketing prices, but it has had nothing whatever to do with causing price increases, because those increases have not been necessary to the profits or the stability of industry in any way at all," he said.

McCrea called on the special session of Congress to deal with the emergency. He urged a minimum wage law of 75c an hour; criminal prosecution of speculators in food and other essentials; price and rent control restored immediately to levels of May, 1946; and sharp Congressional control of monopoly power in the interests of public safety and welfare.

FTA Organizer Mike Shapiro, speaking for Maryland cannery workers, raked the Congressmen over the coals when he testified in Baltimore on October 22.

Greatly increased production, he pointed out, "was achieved by speeding up the Maryland cannery workers without paying them overtime wages. As a result, cannery warehouses are bulging with canned goods which, owing to high prices, the people cannot buy. For example, the Phillips Packing Co. is normally a year 'round operation, employing from 1,500 to 1,700 workers. Today Phillips is almost shut down, and employs only 200 workers. The reason is simple: Phillips warehouses are full, prices are too high and people cannot buy.

"The result is layoffs, unemployment, and the laying of the groundwork for the biggest depression this country has ever known.

"Unless more of this money is taken away from the trusts and the monopolies, in the form of price and profit reductions, we shall have an economic crash that will make President Hoover's days look like a picnic in comparison."

Bob Kinney, FTA regional director in Washington, Oregon and Alaska, got his turn October 23 in Seattle. Kinney lashed out at the theory (spread around by Senator Taft) that the workers are making such high wages that they're eating too much and can "eat less."

He exposed the speed-up as creating waste of food in the canneries. In California, he said, there are 500,000 workers unemployed, a situation brought about by speed-up and overstocked warehouses.

Time to act to stop jim crow and lynching, FTA Board member Moranda Smith, Local 22, told CIO Convention in Boston. Sister Smith was later congratulated by CIO President Murray on her forthright speech.

LINK TAFT ACT, CIVIL RIGHTS ATTACKS TO WAGE CUT DRIVE

The Taft-Hartley act, the attacks on civil rights through the unAmerican committee in Congress, state anti-labor laws and the failure to end jim crow are all part of a general plan to break up unions and drive down wages, the CIO said in a series of resolutions at the ninth convention in Boston.

"These acts—or failures to act—of Congress are "part of a program to destroy the living standards of our people for which the Republican and Democratic parties share responsibility," the Taft-Hartley resolution said.

"The purpose of this is to render unions powerless to resist wage cuts, speedup and the return to sweatshop conditions."

On the unAmerican committee, the resolution pointed out that "since its creation the committee has been unremitting in its attacks on labor and on the leaders of our movement . . . Never before has it presented so grave a menace to the freedom of our people."

Attacks on workers' rights to organize come at a time, the convention said in a general resolution on civil rights, when industrialists have received new freedom to plunder and ravage our economy at the very time when the common people are denied the political and economic freedom to defend themselves against exploitation."

Speaking on these issues FTA Delegate Moranda Smith of North Carolina pointed out that "Taft-Hartley acts are an old, old story" to Southern workers.

She challenged the CIO to back up its words on civil rights with action, bringing applause when she said: "Too long have the Negro people of the South and other workers in America heard a lot of words read to them. It is time for action, and I am wondering if the CIO is going to do something by action.

"You talk about political action. How can there be any political action while the Negroes in the South are not allowed to vote?

"Too long have the workers in the South stopped and looked to Congress for action. Now we no longer look to Washington for protection. It has failed. Today we are looking for an organization that will fight for the freedom of all men regardless of race, creed or color, and that is the CIO. We call on you again, and we ask you not to fail us."

Following her speech at the convention, Moranda Smith was invited to take part in the first program of a new radio series sponsored by the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO. The program takes UE's commentator, Arthur Gaeth, into workers' homes to discuss problems and issues with the rank and file. Sister Smith spoke on the high cost of living and what the FTA is trying to do about it.

(The UE program is on the Mutual network every Wednesday, at 7:30 pm., Eastern Standard Time.)

The same attack on wages prompts attempts to deport labor leaders such as the current attempt to exile John Santo, of the Transport Workers Union, the convention pointed out. It urged all CIO members to protest to Attorney-General Tom Clark, Washington, D. C., against the persecution of a man whose only "crime" has been to help workers to a better living standard.

Unanimously re-elected to eighth term, CIO President Philip Murray makes his acceptance speech at the convention.

FTA URGES REAL FIGHT FOR 75c MINIMUM PAY; MORE COVERAGE

Now is the time to fight for a 75c minimum wage and to extend it to cover all workers, FTA President Donald Henderson urged the delegates at the CIO convention in Boston.

This is also the best way to fight to keep the wage hour act on the books, he added, warning that "it is even being hinted that the House Labor Committee will consider the question of whether or not there should be a wage hour act at all."

Even without attempting outright repeal, employer agents in Congress are planning to gut the act by extending exemptions from time and a half pay for overtime to still more hundreds of thousands of workers, Henderson added.

"I do not need to talk about the millions of agricultural workers and other workers who have no coverage and no minimum wages at all," he said. "The danger today is that there is a concerted drive on to extend exemptions now enjoyed by the bosses under the act."

The oncoming depression, with its accompanying wage cut drives will make minimum wages a number one issue, Henderson pointed out, urging the CIO to act now on the 75c base before the depression breaks.

Meantime, testimony by the Chamber of Commerce, the Natl. Association of Manufacturers and their mouthpieces in Congress indicates clearly a plan to cripple the wage hour act before labor wakes up to what is happening.

Both NAM and the Chamber have called for an end to time and a half for overtime work, echoed by their agents such as Rep. Rich (R., Pa.), Barden (D., N. C.) and others.

The argument used is the need for "more production," which they claim is held up by time and a half. Actually, as any food or tobacco worker knows, warehouses are bulging with production now, which the companies refuse to sell unless they get an inflated price for it.

What is needed, as FTA leaders have pointed out, is not "more production," but more buying power in the hands of the people. One of the quickest and simplest ways of providing this is by raising minimum wages and making them apply to all workers.

Part of the more than 700 delegates representing close to 7,000,000 workers listening to a speaker at the 9th CIO Convention held in October in Boston, Mass.

FTA, FE VOICE NEED OF FARMERS' FRIENDSHIP

Speaking for two CIO unions with direct connections with working farmers, Vice-President Lewis Bentzley of FTA, and Farm Director Homer Ayres, of the Farm Equipment Workers, urged the CIO to get down to brass tacks in building good relations with farmers.

Bentzley warned that big business plans to shove two-thirds of U. S. farmers off the land mean creation of a "surplus labor pool of close to four and a half million people," which will be used to drive down industrial wages.

Bentzley urged that "it is about time we implement our resolutions. Instead of just passing a resolution and having it on the record, it is time we took some elementary steps to approach these farm organizations, those who will work in the interests of the poor farmer and those who will work in the interests of labor."

FE's Homer Ayres pointed out that farmers today vote for reactionary Congressmen, even though it hurts their interests as well as labor's, because little or no effort is made to reach them on economic issues.

"The reason why farmers vote the way they do is because they have been literally submerged with propaganda put out by the NAM, the Chamber of Commerce and other anti-labor organizations," he said.

Turning to the resolution on agricultural workers, Bentzley urged that "the wealth of organizational ability of labor movement" be turned to the job of organizing agricultural workers, who are today "second class citizens" without the slightest protection against exploitation.

Connie Anderson On Leave from FTA

Due to illness in her family, Connie Anderson, director of the Educational Department of FTA-CIO, has requested and was given an indefinite leave of absence.

We all appreciate the splendid work that Sister Anderson has done for FTA and sincerely hope that she will be able to return to her post within a few months.

During Sister Anderson's leave, the Executive Officers decided that work of this Department will be combined with work of the Research Department and will be under the direction of Joe Califf who will be Director of Research and Education of FTA.

I am sure that you will continue to give cooperation to Brother Califf in taking over this work and will utilize his services to the fullest.

Donald Henderson,
General President

CIGAR WORKERS PLAGUED BY RUNAWAY SHOP, SPEEDUP

Following the successful conference of FTA cigar worker delegates in Philadelphia this summer, FTA News asked representatives present for their opinion on the most pressing problems in the industry today. General agreement seems to center on the speedup and the runaway shop, plus the new double die machine that enables the boss to lay off workers as the main difficulties facing cigar workers today.

Below are letters from four leading FTA members in the cigar industry.

RUNAWAY SHOPS REPORTS N. Y.

We had several runaway shops, especially to Passaic, N. J., which I have called many times the cemetery of the hand cigar makers of New York, for the simple reason that it is the only place, besides Tampa, Florida, where they can get the same type of cigars as in New York.

Later we had other cases like Upman and Suarez, who closed his factory in New York, and is having his cigars made in Tampa, bringing them to and selling them in New York.

Another case is the Regensburg and Sons factory, who after 40 years in this city, closed their factory and moved to Tampa. This happened in July of the present year. This case involved around 150 to 200 workers.

Still another case, and this is the most important one because we are trying to hold the factory in the city of New York, is the Primadora factory involving around 200 workers. We have had several conferences with them but they are determined to close the factory and we didn't succeed in reaching an understanding with them.

We are writing letters to unions and other organizations asking for moral cooperation in these cases. We are doing all we can to hold the plant here, and we ask cooperation from everyone who will willingly give it to us.

In relation to layoffs, I must tell you that since February we

Abelardo Baez, general secretary of FTA Local 273, New York, N.Y., finds the problem of runaway shops the most pressing.

are having layoffs, and at this time of the year, when we expect to replace our workers, we have about 400 unemployed out of our 1,000 members. The layoffs are increasing instead of decreasing.

A wage increase is necessary for the cigar makers as the average earnings for these workers runs from $25 to $30 a week, money, that according to the high cost of living, is not enough to cover the most important needs of the moment.

The double-die machine has been introduced in the city of New York also, and to date we have the same rates of pay, and of course, with these machines the layoffs will increase.

What can we do? This is my point of view: organize. Let's go into Passaic, N.J., organize these workers, then our factories would not go there where they can get cheaper labor, also reach an understanding with the workers in Tampa and make them realize that what's happened to us now will happen to them tomorrow if we don't come to such an understanding.

With the Taft-Hartley act on their side, the cigar manufacturers will be able to move without any trouble if we don't have a strong organization.

We could also say that we have about 400 workers unorganized who will not join the organization for fear that their factories will move either to Tampa or Passaic.

Fraternally yours,
Abelardo Baez,
Local 273, FTA-CIO,
New York, N. Y.

* * *

WANTS SEVERANCE PAY FOR WORKERS

As I see the cigar industry-wide problems: First, we should try our best to take care of runaway shops. We, as a union, should make every effort that every contract should have a clause in it: "If a shop moves out of town, the workers should at least be compensated for one month severance pay, and also wherever the company moves the contract still remains in effect."

As to double-die machines, they're a speed-up device and also threaten job security, because as a whole, every two double-die machines take the place of three single-die machines which will mean it will put many girls out of work.

Also, a double-die machine means double production and the workers in cigar plants will only work about six months a year.

As to what the union can do about it, all I can see is to try and get as much per 1,000 as we can because we can't stop the companies from putting the machines in.

As far as wage increases go, the cigar workers are still underpaid and are still working under sweat shop conditions, and will be until all cigar workers get together and organize, so we can have better conditions and higher wages. Remember, we as workers should start to think about ourselves like the bosses do, and maybe we can get somewhere.

Mary Montanaro,
Local 186 FTA-CIO,
Philadelphia, Pa.

* * *

The double-die machine is a threat to job security and is also a speedup device. Its true that these machines are a step toward progress, but only at the expense of the workers.

Not only does it mean an increase in the nervous tension of a worker, but also less workers will be needed for production.

Control of the speedup on the double-die machine is a must for the union, and the piece rate must not be any lower on a single die machine, and if possible even higher because the extra effort the worker puts forth should be compensated for. All cigar local unions should work toward this goal.

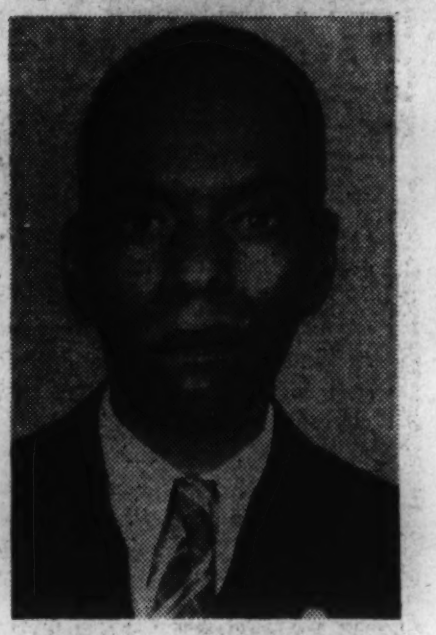
Dorothy Vandezande,
chairman, DWG Div.,
Local 58, FTA-CIO,
Detroit, Mich.

Double die machines, writes Dorothy Vandezande, chairman of DWG Division of Local 58, "are a threat to job security and a speedup device."

LIKE ATOMIC ENERGY

The double-die machine is of modern age the same as the double-die of forty-five and is like atomic energy—it can do a great deal of good. We want the atomic age and less strain on labor, but also want every one to live. The double-die machine is a threat to job security because it is a speed-up device which will turn out production faster, and with surplus production will bring about layoffs.

The bosses will give the non-union worker the same privilege as the union worker which keeps the workers confused. But we know in unity there is strength



Speedup and layoffs are serious problems also to S. B. Graham, Vice-President of FTA Local 15, Charleston, S.C.

and all workers at this time I think should begin to realize the fact and try to learn the score.

What is neded in our new contracts is a "no discrimination clause" regardless of race, color or creed. We want equal rights given to every worker in America and opportunities and privileges to fight injustice in the courts, especially when it comes to labor and such bills as the Taft-Hartley law and all discriminatory bills.

A wage increase is necessary to cigar workers because living costs have increased. The poor worker as well as the rich boss has to pay equally in living cost. For instance butter has gone to $1.00 a pound. Steak seven to eight cents more per pound. Grains and wheat also has gone on the top shelf. Workers need at least a 15c wage increase to help solve some of these problems.

Some of our present problems in the plants: 1) intimidation, 2) prejudice, 3) hatred. It is a hard struggle to work under such a law as the Taft-Hartley slave act. How to solve some of that problem is to pay no attention to the great pressure that the boss will bring about.

S. B. Graham,
Vice-President, Local 15,
FTA-CIO, Charleston, S.C.

DWG WORKERS GET RAISE; REBUFF RAID

Strengthened by their victory over a would-be union busting group, FTA members at the DWG Cigar plants in Michigan and Ohio have won a new contract and a total of $500,000 in wage gains.

The new contract signed between amalgamated Local 300 and the DWG Cigar Corp. brought average wage increases ranging from 10c to 23c an hour; six paid holidays; shift bonuses; maintenance of membership and checkoff of dues; time and a half pay for more than eight hours work and Saturdays, with double time for Sundays and holidays.

Side-stepping loopholes in the Taft-Hartley law, the contract prevents damage suits against the union for unauthorized work stoppages and strikes. It also provides seniority and grievance procedure, with top seniority for shop stewards and officers.

In over six years of bargaining representation for DWG cigar workers, FTA has won a total of $8,500,000 in wage increases, plus other gains which money cannot measure—such as seniority rights and job protection under grievance procedure.

Raiding attempts prior to negotiations by mis-leaders from the CIO Retail Clerks Union together with a small group of red-baiting former FTA members, failed when the majority of FTA members denounced them as "mis-leaders in the labor movement." FTA's position was supported by the Lima Industrial Union Council which called on CIO Wholesale and Retail Employes President Samuel Wolchok to call off the raiders.

DWG cigar locals, FTA Local 58 in Detroit, 67 in Delphos, 69 and 70 in Lima, 71 in Van Wert, 72 in Findlay and 73 in St. Marys, decided to amalgamate for greater strength in bargaining for the workers. President of Amalgamated Local 300 is Sally Sullivan. Local organizer is Harold Kotzker.

Chief aim of the newly amalgamated local is to get every DWG worker in the union. They are also tackling the problem of winning a single rate for a particular cigar whether made by single or double-die machine, and a new rate for inspectors and relief operators where double-dies are used.

58 GETS 10c RAISE

Viviano Macaroni Co. employes, members of FTA Local 58 in Detroit, Mich., won a new contract recently providing wage increases of eight cents an hour for men and 10c for women.

FIGHT FLORIDA SCAB LABOR ACT

Challenging the constitutionality of anti-labor legislation, FTA and seven other CIO affiliates, represented by CIO Assistant Counsel Frank Donner, have begun a test case in Florida against the Florida "right to work" law which prohibits the closed shop and dues checkoff.

The case involves five employes of the Merrill-Stevens Dry Dock Co. in Jacksonville, who failed to pay dues under a maintenance of membership contract between the company and the CIO Marine and Shipyard Union. When the employer refused the union's request to fire the men, the case went to arbitration which ruled in favor of the union.

The five men then took the case to court to prevent the company and the union from carrying out the arbitration award.

Intervening in the case are the FTA, Florida Industrial Union Council, Shipbuilding union, Auto Workers, Maritime Union, Transport Workers, Retail and Wholesale and the Brewery Workers, all CIO unions.

The CIO intends to challenge the constitutionality of anti-labor legislation wherever possible, including the Taft-Hartley law, CIO General Counsel Lee Pressman declared.

Local 7 Steps Up PAC

A four-day executive board meeting held by Local 7 last month mapped a fighting program for the local around citizenship rights for Filipinos, education for union members and leaders, organizing the unorganized and political action.

A permanent political action committee was elected by the local to spearhead the PAC dollar contribution drive and to make plans for a spring offensive. Members of the PAC committee are Ponce Torres, Tom Pias and Pete Cabansag.

New Officers

Newly elected officers of Local 22 in Winston-Salem, N. C., are: John H. Minor and Robert C. Black, co-chairmen; Etta Hobson, financial secretary; Floria Peoples Watkins, recording secretary; Willie Grier, treasurer; Christine Gardner, Rev. Frank O'Neal, Rev. Robert Person, Ruth Stokes, and Janie Wilson, trustees.

Committee chairmen are: Jason Hawkins, PAC; Moranda Smith, Education; Jethro Dunlap, Welfare; C. C. Anderson, Veterans; Mary Louise Barber, Publicity; J. F. Williams, Defense; and Velma B. Hopkins, Organizing.

7-2 WINS GAINS

By Florence Palmer, Reporter

Local 7-2 recently organized a new plant just starting in business, the Specialty Foods Company, in Seattle, making meat and vegetable stew at present. The agreement was signed by our President-Business Agent, James Moellendorf, and contains the same working conditions as our other contracts: union security, minimum wages for women, 92½ cents per hour and $1.09 per hour for men, eight hour day, 40 hour week, time and one-half for overtime and for Sundays and holidays, five cent night shift differential, check-off, seniority, and vacations with pay.

In Memoriam

The members of FTA-CIO extend heartfelt sympathy to Sister Sally Sullivan and her family on the death of her husband. Mr. Sullivan died after a serious illness, and is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Demand Congress Act On Prices Now

FTA DEMANDS CUTS IN LIVING COSTS, PROFITS

(With the special session of Congress called for November 17, FTA and other CIO unions issued urgent calls to their members for action to force Congress to do something about the crisis in living costs.

Main action suggested to FTA locals by President Henderson centered around petitions, mass meetings and other protests to Congress asking for return of price control and rationing, cuts in food monopoly profits and speculation and return of effective rent control.

Below is the text of the petition. Clip it out, paste on a sheet of paper with room for names and addresses, and get your neighbors to sign it. Mail completed petitions to FTA-CIO, 930 F St. NW, Washington 4, D. C.)

A PETITION TO
THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES:

The cost of living is so high today that it is becoming impossible to feed and clothe our families properly on the wages we receive.

The cost of food alone takes half as much again of our income as it did before Price Control was killed in June, 1946.

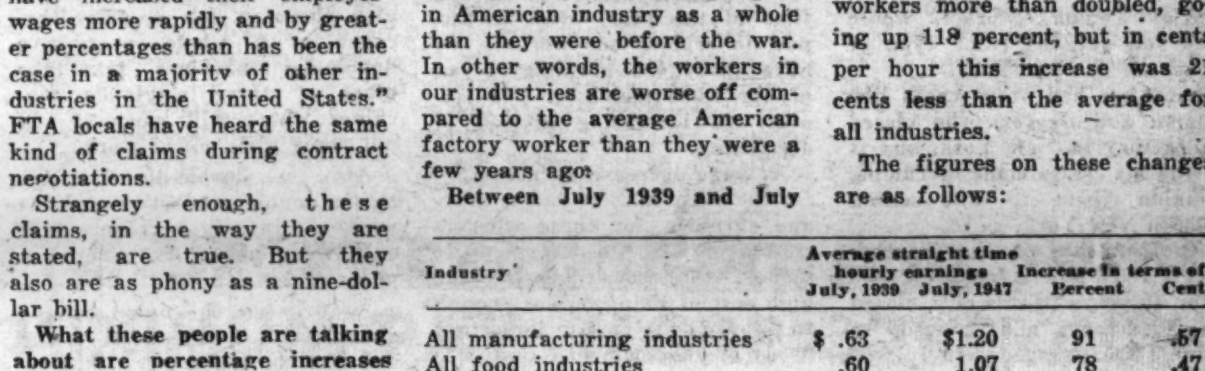
It takes all we earn simply to live. We have nothing left over for an emergency.

Now, therefore, in order to avoid further cuts in the standard of living and to stave off an economic disaster

WE PETITION THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS OF THE U. S. TO:

1. Restore Price Control and rationing at May, 1946 prices.
2. Restore effective Rent Control and prohibit evictions.
3. End monopoly profits and speculation in necessities.

We ask these things as Americans exercising our right to petition our Government for the redress of grievances.



Can't Eat Percents

By Joseph Califf
Research Director

For some time now, spokesmen for the bosses have been bragging that in recent years the wages of food and tobacco workers have increased more than in almost any other industry in the country.

For example, the U. S. Tobacco Journal, a leading trade paper, says: "Tobacco manufacturers have increased their employes' wages more rapidly and by greater percentages than has been the case in a majority of other industries in the United States." FTA locals have heard the same kind of claims during contract negotiations.

Strangely enough, these claims, in the way they are stated, are true. But they also are as phony as a nine-dollar bill.

What these people are talking about are percentage increases in wages. If you compare wage rates in different industries for the past few years, you do find that the increase in food and tobacco wages, expressed in terms of percentages, has been considerably above average.

The joker in this kind of figuring is this: in comparing wage increases, the important thing is not how many percentage points wages go up, but what the increase amounts to in terms of dollars and cents. If a worker's wages are low to begin with, even a big percentage increase won't raise his wage rate much. On the other hand, a small increase in terms of percent may mean a sizeable dollar-and-cents raise to a high-paid worker.

It's not much comfort to a worker to be told his wages have gone up 50 percent or 100 percent if he is still making only 50 or 60 cents an hour. Workers can't eat percents.

So in order to tell whether food and tobacco workers have improved their wage standards compared to other workers, you have to look at how much the wage increase amounts to in money, not percents.

What are the facts? Figures put out by the U. S. Department of Labor show two very significant things about what has happened to wages since the beginning of World War II. First, money wages of food and tobacco workers have increased less than the average for manufacturing industries in the U. S. as a whole, despite the fact that many food and tobaco industries show a much higher percentage rise.

Second, food and tobacco wages are farther below the wages paid in American industry as a whole than they were before the war. In other words, the workers in our industries are worse off compared to the average American factory worker than they were a few years ago.

Between July 1939 and July 1947, the average straight time hourly earnings in all manufacturing industries increased 91 percent. This was an average increase of 57 cents an hour. In the canning industry, the increase in terms of percents was 118 percent, but in terms of money it amounted to only 53 cents—four cents less than the average increase for all industries.

In the cigar industry, the increase in earnings was 103 percent, but this amounted to only 42 cents an hour, or 15 cents less than the average.

Earnings of cottonseed oil workers more than doubled, going up 118 percent, but in cents per hour this increase was 21 cents less than the average for all industries.

The figures on these changes are as follows:

Industry	Average straight time hourly earnings July, 1939	July, 1947	Increase in terms of: Percent	Cents
All manufacturing industries	$ .63	$1.20	91	.57
All food industries	.60	1.07	78	.47
Canning	.45	.97	118	.53
All tobacco industries	.47	.93	98	.46
Cigars	.41	.84	103	.42

In looking at these figures it is well to remember, of course, that the greater part of these wage increases has been wiped out by the rise in the cost of living.

The figures in the table show how low the wages in our industries are today compared to what the average factory worker makes. They also indicate that the gap between food and tobacco wages and the higher wages paid in other industries has widened in the last few years.

For instance, eight years ago food industry earnings were only three cents an hour below the average for all industries. Today they are 13 cents lower. Cannery workers now make an average of 23 cents less; before the war they were only 18 cents behind.

Cigar workers made 22 cents less than the average in 1939, but today the gap is 15 cents wider—37 cents below the average.

There was a difference of 33 cents an hour between earnings in the cottonseed oil industry and the average factory wage in 1939. As of today the cottonseed oil workers have dropped 54 cents behind, and they earn just a little more than half as much as the average factory worker.

It is pretty clear that the bosses don't have anything to brag about in the wages they pay. No amount of juggling percentages can hide the fact that food and tobaco workers make much less than the average American factory worker, and that their wages are today even farther below the general wage level than they were a few years ago.

By Homer Ayres

Who is the villain in the case of the people vs. the high cost of living? This is the $64 question the midwest subcommittee of the joint Senate-House committee on the economic report is attempting—so it says—to get answered in its round of hearings.

A widespread burning sensation in the ear region must have been felt by the farmers during the hearings where they were much discussed, as the propaganda that farmers are to blame for high food prices has taken hold now. And, to their everlasting credit, the best friends the farmers had in court were the representatives of the labor organizations.

If the committee wants to get on the trail of the real villain in the case, it should remove several of its members, as some of them aided and abetted the enemy when they voted to scuttle and then kill OPA.

Labor witnesses placed the blame on the greed of the monopoly corporations and showed how the people were overwhelmed by the million dollar campaign of the NAM, which made the going easy for a Congress sympathetic to large corporations. A priest quietly related how the big packers took a group of men-of-the-cloth to one side and asked them to tell their people not to protest against the lifting of price controls because without them meat would be cheaper and more plentiful. Figures were read into the record by the packinghouse workers proving that the packers' profits had increased tremendously since OPA went out of commission, showing that the packers couldn't make good on the promises to both stockholders and ministers. Swift's increase was reported as 22.8%.

From time to time a committee member would read into the record figures showing the farmers' share of the consumer's dollar, which looked high. But a representative of the packinghouse union jerked them up by saying that under OPA the farmers got 85c of the beef dollar while today they got only 72c, and the consumer got less meat for his money.

I had the opportunity to testify for 30 minutes and reminded them that about only 20% of the farmers were in on the big money while the 80%, the small farmers, were seeing the price scissors start to close on them. I said that farmers have no say in what they receive—good times or bad—as they always ask, "What will you give me" when they sell and "What does it cost" when they buy. "Farmers are being told," I said, "that labor is to blame and labor is being told that farmers are to blame for the high prices, but I charge that the monopoly corporations are to blame."

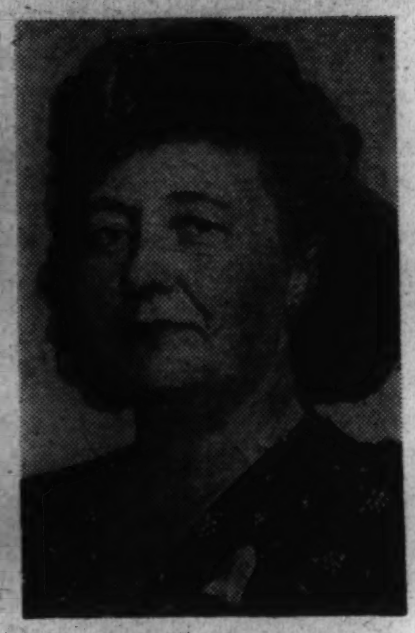
The ones who testified for the common people asked that price control and rationing be reinstated. It is either that or economic collapse.

FTA members at the Pacific Grape Products plant in Modesto, Calif., got tired of the lousy food and high prices charged in the plant cafeteria and decided to run it themselves for a while. Result: quality (and quantity) of food served went up, prices went down. Here members of FTA Local 82 line up for lunch, served by other members behind the counter.

22's Rank and File Shows How

Plenty like Mrs. Lula M. Slate, 23 years at Reynolds, are helping FTA to consolidate in the giant tobacco plant. Mrs. Slate, a member of FTA and an organizing leader, belongs to the Baptist Church at Symria, N.C., and had two sons in the Air Force during the war. Mrs. Slate reports that she has had more wage raises in the four years of FTA at Reynolds than she had in the previous 19 put together.

Local 22 Vice-Chairman Carrie Speaks, with 15 years in Reynolds, sees the union as the key to justice on the job for the worker. Says Sister Speaks: "People who have been on a job for the same length of time ought to get the same pay." Reynolds management doesn't usually see it that way, and one of Local 22's big jobs is to see that they do. Vice-Chairman Speaks is on that job too.



Mrs. Effie Sprinkle, who hails from Virginia, came to work at Reynolds 26 years ago. Mrs. Sprinkle, whose oldest son, Walter B., is in the army, lives in Winston-Salem with five children. Mrs. Sprinkle believes firmly in belonging to a union like FTA 22. Unions, she finds, are especially needed in the tobacco industry, where pay is low and hours long among the unorganized.

ACT ON PRICES, FTA TELLS CITY COUNCIL

Official city action recognizing the problem of prices and living standards for local citizens was forced upon the aldermen of tobacco monopoly town of Winston-Salem, N. C. this week by an unprecedented CIO demonstration which packed the Council chambers and overflowed city hall corridors with hundreds of Negro and white union members.

Spokesmen for the Committee of Winston-Salem CIO unions confronted the aldermen at their regular meeting with starvation statistics for nearly 2,000 seasonal tobacco workers earning $12 to $20 a week on a work-week schedule reduced to half time or less this year. The plight was exposed of city employes, having to live on $30 a week incomes when groceries alone for a family of four runs to $27 or more.

The aldermen, elected under a city political machine dominated for years by the huge R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., sat uncomfortably through a biting CIO denunciation of monopoly profiteering, and hemed and hawed at the CIO request for an aldermanic resolution calling on Pres. Truman for a special session of Congress to control prices.

But rank and file workers, including even a non-union spectator, took the floor with telling effect in appeals for aid from their elected representatives. And workers had an indication of the value of political action when Aldermen Kenneth Williams and Fred C. Denny, elected with labor support last spring, succeeded in getting a motion passed setting up a special committee to look into the CIO request. Williams is the first Negro alderman this city has had since Reconstruction days.

Robert Highsmith, the non-union observer, told the aldermen he represented "a lot of lazy people who should be here." A veteran, he warned the aldermen of the disaster threatened by uncontrolled profiteering, saying, "If we don't do something, inflation will get to where nobody can buy anything. I know—I saw it happen in China."

John Hunt, secretary of the city CIO committee and a representative of FTA-CIO, presented evidence of the exorbitant corporation profits which are looting the national economy. He outlined a detailed program ranging from a 75c minmimum wage law and renewed price control, to curbing of speculation, jail terms under the anti-trust laws, and nationalization of basic industries, which he said "have too much power over American life to be in private hands," and "should be government-owned and operated for the public benefit, like the post office."

No one challenged the unions' statement of economic conditions and the seriousness of high prices. But several of the aldermen, bowing to the powerful anti-labor forces of the city, tried to duck the issue by saying it was "not a municipal matter," and therefore "outside their jurisdiction."

Background for the present activity has included CIO-sponsored mass meetings on a price-control program, and the signing of thousands of names to petitions circulated on street corners and in various plants, calling for a special session of Congress to lower prices. The largest local union, Local 22, FTA-CIO, is conducting a wholesale food-buying agency, to provide groceries at cost to union members.

'UNFINISHED BUSINESS' SPARKS DRIVE TO STRENGTHEN FTA UNION

By John C. Hunt

"Unfinished business" is high up on the agenda for workers in the "Camel City" cigarette center of Winston-Salem, N. C., these days. Ever since 1943, when FTA Local 22 began bargaining for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. employes, there has been a big group which has had no real union or contract in effect, since there was very little organization in their departments to carry on the day to day business of getting errors checked and looking out for the interests of the workers in these departments.

That's the unfinished business which is the chief concern of an FTA organizing drive now under way in Winston-Salem—the job of helping the unorganized departments get together and win long-needed benefits in the new contract next spring. That means such things as company-paid insurance, including increased accident and sickness benefits, increased hospitalization, surgical and medical expense benefits and the like.

It also includes winter and summer vacations, with two weeks in summer for employes with five years' service; wage increases to offset the high cost of living and make Reynolds workers' wages as high as any other cigarette manufacturer pays on the jobs involved; promotions by seniority on these jobs; and a retirement plan written in the contract with a pension big enough to live on.

The departments involved consist chiefly of key cigarette making and packing departments, with the highest ratio of white workers to Negro workers of any departments in the plant. These sections are almost all white, although more than 50 per cent of the total Reynolds working force of 10,000 is Negro.

The Camels strike this spring provided a good example of the cost of incomplete organization. The company banked on the unorganized departments to "bargain down" its wage offer for the whole plant, and chose to test its strength with the union in a difficult strike—a policy which would have been out of the question with solid organization.

That's the source of the "unfinished business' which is the growing concern of the unorganized departments, and which is taking FTA organizers Jack Frye, Mary Lou Kroger and Fred Less into the field of farm-labor unity work.

As to the farm-labor angle, the reason is this: Great numbers of these unorganized workers—half of them or more—do not live in Winston-Salem at all. They are farm or suburban people, who drive in from their places every day, and have very little opportunity to get together for real discussion of their problems as industrial workers.

During good weather, earlier this year, outdoor movies at country stores proved a popular "grass roots" way of getting people together for entertainment and informal discussion.

As for the "old time" union workers—men and women who have been union members from the start in the relatively unorganized departments — they have almost more fame now than is comfortable. For one thing, some 70-odd of them who were on the picket lines in the strike that ended June 9 have now gone back on their jobs with full seniority and all other rights, after a period in which the company attempted to take the position that they were all "no longer employes."

During the difficult period of their "lock-out," these workers showed good union spirit in staying united on a union program until the company's position was altered. Naturally, on going back to their departments, they became a center of attention, with a new prestige and responsibility as leaders, and as an object lesson in the value of unity.

Union workers, of course, are no different than any others—they are just workers who have decided to join the union. And joining a union in the South is no different than joining one anywhere else. A look through the accompanying pictures and "thumbnail histories" of a few FTA members in the "unorganized" departments will prove both points.

Or take some others, not pictured. Like Arthur White, who lives on Route 6, Box 55, Old Lexington Road, Winston-Salem. He was born in Davidson County, N. C.; has lived in Winston-Salem all his life; and has worked at Reynolds for 29 years. He had good reason to join the union when it came to Reynolds four years ago—his pre-union wages were 45 cents an hour. A box machine operator, his job pays more than double that now—92 cents an hour. He is member of Antioch Church.

And there's John Henry Minor, recently elected co-chairman of the local. A Davie County, N. C., native, he is an Air Force veteran with 21 months overseas. The rest of the time for the last 32 years he has been in the Winston-Salem area, with 14 years spent at Reynolds. He is a member of the Home Moravian Church.

In other words, Southern working people make good union members in Reynolds, just as workers do in Michigan or California. The stories of these few named could be matched thousands of times by the honest, everyday histories of other workers in the departments where the union is now being organized, and among the Negro union members.

FTA organizers, assigned here until the job is finished, are convinced that helping workers in these long-unorganized departments win contract benefits requires more the approach of organizing a new plant than that of a routine "consolidation" job —that day to day business of taking care of turnover and sewing up a department that already has a functioning organization.

The latter leaves such a department cold. It encourages the tendency to regard union activities as a "spectator sport"—something they can sit in the bleachers and watch. Getting a movement going where none has been before is a matter of talking and explaining the elements of unionism and stirring up interest in organization on the basis of things the unorganized workers need.

As to the "Negro question," often regarded as the main stumbling block to organizing in the South, people here are becoming convinced that it is entirely secondary to the general problem of arousing interest in organization.

Anti-Negro talk is chiefly the **business of a few highly-prejudiced people who make a loud noise. The basic fact of race relations in the plant is that both white and Negro workers are employed. Membership or non-membership in the union does not change that fact one way or the other.**

When people become sufficiently interested in the benefits of collective bargaining, the obvious principles of good organization make a plant-wide union a common-sense matter for most people.

Ask Firing Of Race Baiter

Demands for the dismissal of H. C. Thorman, member of the Rent Control Committee in the San Antonio, Texas area were wired by Local 172 to Acting Federal Housing Expediter Tighe Woods in Washington.

Thorman, a local real estate operator, proved his unfitness for the job when he made insulting remarks about Mexican-Americans to FTA Regional Director Harry Koger.

"Mexican Americans, along with other racial minorities constitute a large section of this area's tenants and suffer most from unfair administration of rent control," the wire said.

"A person of Thorman's admitted racial prejudices should not be permitted to serve in a position so important to public welfare."

URGE WORKER-FARMER UNITY

A call to workers and farmers to unite in the fight against high prices was issued by Local 106, Reading, Pa., in a resolution sent to the Berks County Industrial Union Council.

By trying to get worker and farmer to fight each other, Big Business is able to steal billions of dollars from them as consumers, the resolution pointed out.

It called for the building of the co-operative movement "as a way to fight big business, and bring to the people the necessities of life at prices they can pay."

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FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA — CIO

Vol. VII, No. 13 November 15, 1947 Price 5 Cents

Demand Price Rollback, Control

(See Page 6)

FTA's delegates and staff members gather round the table at the CIO convention in Boston, Mass. Seated are from left; Executive Board Member Moranda Smith; President Donald Henderson; Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane; Vice President Lewis Bentzley and Vice-President Armando Ramirez. Standing are Research Director Joseph Califf; PAC Director Elizabeth Sasuly; Vice-President Robert Lathan and Organization Director John Tisa. Two staff members missing from the picture are Education Director Connie Anderson and Publicity Director C. W. Fowler.

unAmericans 'Scandalous' Murray Says

The unAmerican committee of Congress is "scandalous," a "shameful blot of the pages of American legislative action" and should be abolished at once, CIO President Philip Murray wrote to Congressional leaders this week.

Writing to both GOP and Democratic party leaders, Murray urged them to "speak and act now to prevent the heaping of any further infamy on the name of so vital an institution in our democracy as the U. S. Congress."

Labor has long felt the "whiplash of this committee and its predecessors," he added, "and politically we have understood its operations to represent the same kind of thought control which characterized the police state of the nations who were our enemies in the recent war."

Murray accused the committee flatly of trying to dictate the kind of moving pictures the American people shall be allowed to see, in the same way that Hitler and Goebbels dictated the kind of movies seen by the German people during the years before Nazism was openly in power in Germany.

Meantime, inspired by big business and the unAmerican committee, anti-labor and anti-progressive forces moved more and more into the open all over the nation. In New Jersey, CIO President Carl Holderman was moved to protest against a hoodlum job of breaking up a Communist party meeting and the failure of police to protect citizens in their right of freedom of assembly.

In Philadelphia, birthplace of American freedom, it took a court order obtained by the Progressive Citizens of America to get around a police ban on an open air meeting in the square in front of Independence Hall. The meeting was set to protest the unAmerican committee gag on freedom of thought.

Only a few voices spoke out against a gradually tightening noose of employer-inspired oppression and intimidation. Among these was CIO President Murray's, the action of a lone professor in refusing to sign the U. S. "loyalty oath" and the courage of the movie makers on trial before Thomas' kangaroo court in Washington.

Travelers who remember the Germany of 1932 keep seeing ominous reminders in parts of the U. S. A. of 1947—the heyday of the stoolpigeons, finks, scabs and just plain crooks whom the unAmericans delight to honor.

FTA Local 7's Administrative Committee gets down to work. From left are Chairman Trinidad A. Rojo; Chairman Prudencio P. Mori; Treasurer C. L. (Joe) Camarillo; Dispatcher Gene Navarro and Business Manager Ernesto Mangaoang.

unAmericans Lose First Round With Hollywood

Acting with more than usual haste and indecency, the unAmerican committee of Congress undertook this past two weeks to put the red smear on every half-way progressive idea that ever came out of Hollywood. The attempt was not a success, even in terms of pure box-office.

Provided with the usual parade of finks, stoolpigeons and timid souls who see "communism" under everybody else's bed, the committee set out to prove that America's weekly movie diet is a subtle hash of the Kremlin's concoction, designed to lead the 90,000,000 or so innocents who go to the movies every week straight down the unAmerican path.

Big flaws in the scenario, however, was apparent from the start. Not one of the "friendly" witnesses (such authorities on world affairs as Adolphe Menjou, Robert Montgomery, Gary Cooper et al) was able to name a single movie that carried the "party line." Mrs. Leila Rogers, mother-manager of the better known Ginger, claimed she found one in a movie script that had the hero say "I can't make a living out of cheating poor people," but even this fell flat.

Even the Hollywood movie producers, most of them bitterly anti-union and anti-liberal, rebelled at the obvious attempt to gag all freedom of thought and expression on the screen. Hiring ex-Governor Paul V. McNutt as their mouthpiece, they maintained a united front with honest elements among the actors, writers and directors to fight the Thomas-Rankin witch-hunt.

The committee, however, had its way for the time being with a half dozen or more progressive screen writers, slapping contempt of Congress citations on them for refusing to answer illegal questions on their trade union and political affiliations and beliefs.

These writers and directors were joined in fighting the committee by a score of nationally known actors and actresses, including Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Danny Kaye, June Havoc, and others equally known to movie goers. Charlie Chaplin, who has asked the unAmerican committee to call him, was not even invited to appear.

Threats and denunciations of Hollywood from the unAmerican committee may sound funny—the daily press played the stories that way—but they are deadly serious to people who value freedom of expression. A big part of Hitler's propaganda machine was the German movie industry, and the same stormtroopers that exiled actors and writers from Germany also smashed unions, killed union leaders and led the German people to war against the entire world.